Helicopter service between Guwahati-Halflong-Guwahati

932. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any initiative for starting Helicopter service between Guwahati-Halflong-Guwahati, keeping in view the insurgency infested area and road connectivity problems;

(b) if so, the details of proposals and suggestions of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any Memorandum in this regard during the last two years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL), a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, is ready to provide a suitable helicopter to the Government of Assam on mutually agreed terms and conditions. Based on the requirement of the helicopter, it would be used by the State Government on any sector, including Guwahati-Halflong-Guwahati.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Training programme to the employees of IGI Airport

933. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to make Indira Gandhi international Airport customer-friendly a one-day training programme was organised recently;

(b) if so, the number of employees who had participated;

(c) what has been its effect on their performance; and

(d) whether such programme would be conducted at other major airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Training programmes are conducted as an ongoing continuous process to improve work culture and quality of services.

(b) and (c) 41 women participated in the Refresher Training programme organized at IGI airport on 10-05-2001 to develop communication skills amongst Senior Airport Hostesses and Telephone Operators. As a result, the announcements at the airport have improved. Also, 20 police personnel participated in the Training on Screening of X-Ray Baggage System organized at IGI Airport from 16-10-2000 to 19-10-2000. The Police staff have been exposed to the usage of X-Ray Baggage System.

(d) Yes, Sir. the programmes on Building Positive Work culture and Customer Care is proposed to be conducted at 26 airports in the country, namely at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Trivandrum, Ahmedabad, Goa, Calicut, Guwahati, Pune, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Varanasi, Nagpur, Vadodara, Mangalore, Lucknow, Patna, Udaipur, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Imphal, Aurangabad and Amritsar.

Conversion of Biju Patnaik Airport into an International Airport

934. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to transform the Biju Patnaik Airport in Bhubaneswar into an International Airport;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken in that direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has constructed a new terminal building with all modern passenger facilities to cater to 500 passengers at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.77 Crores. Airport is suitable to handle limited international flights with AB-320 class of aircraft. AAI has taken up work for extension of runway to 9000' to make it suitable for wide bodied jet aircraft operation at a cost of Rs. 12.62 crores.